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August 28, 2002

Chairman Getman
and Commissioners Downey, Knox and Swanson
Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street, Suite. 620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: September 5, 2002 Commission Meeting
Agenda Item #15

Dear Chairman Getman and Commissioners Downey, Knox and Swanson:

This letter is being written in response to the memo dated August 26, 2002 regarding program cuts for the FPPC for fiscal year 2003-2004.

Please do not cut out the assistance available for filing officers. For me, and I'm sure many others, this job is given to us with no training, and no resources; all we get are forms and deadlines. We are expected to be experts on every schedule and every form. Without the availability of technical assistance from FPPC, it would be insane to assume the responsibilities of a filing officer.

The hotline, telephone technical advice and training programs are invaluable. When I went to my first seminar, I felt like someone had thrown me a life ring. And who will answer questions if the technical assistance department is scaled back? Lack of information will just result in incomplete and inaccurate forms being submitted.

Of course, it is obvious that the state needs to cut expenses. Cutting the assistance to the filing officials may save a couple of dollars now, but it will be expensive in the long run.

The services now provided by the FPPC are exemplary and you and your staff are to be commended for the improvements that they have made over the last few years. In order to preserve the integrity of the Political Reform Act it is imperative that these services remain intact as they are functioning today.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Bryant
Administrative Assistant